

From: Kelsey Smith <kelsey.smith@usc.salvationarmy.org>

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Subject: Introduction

Good afternoon all! My name is Kelsey Smith and I am the new case manager for the Salvation Army's TIP Grant program. I will be serving Burlington, Keokuk and Iowa City and possibly some other surrounding areas if the need is there. Our housing program is the Transition in Place program where we house veterans experiencing homelessness for a year while working with them to connect with other community resources. The goal is to assist them in becoming as independent as possible so that the chances of them experiencing homelessness in the future is significantly decreased.

We are building our program now and should be able to start taking on vets (hopefully) in the next couple of months. Our current goal is to get landlords on board with our program and complete the inspections on the apartments/homes so that we can get them approved on the federal level, get them furnished and start taking people in since the weather is getting colder. If you know of any landlords in the area that are interested in working with programs such as ours, please let me know. We are also interested in finding volunteers to help move furniture into apartments once they are approved. I don't expect that any one person would have all of the answers, but it never hurts to inquire.

We follow a housing first model so that is our number one goal. Once they are established in the home and have been connected to other community resources that might be beneficial to them we start working on other goals such as mental health stability, financial stability and other barrier areas like substance abuse etc. In this program, we are able to guarantee their rent is paid for up to one year while they become more independent and stable to prevent future homelessness. The vet will be responsible for setting aside 30% of their income during their stay with the program. If the veteran is able to get the lease transferred into their name successfully after a year and remain stable in their apartment 90 days following graduation from the program, they will be able to get their savings back. Some may only get a portion of that if the money is needed toward any remaining months (if they leave the lease early) or if there is damage to the apartment.

Currently, Brooke Ballard is our [SSVF rapid rehousing](#) case manager in Iowa and I am the TIP grant case manager, or the Transition in Place case manager, for the Burlington, Keokuk and Iowa City areas (Lee, Johnson and Des Moines County). My supervisor's name is Amber Darrow (amber.darrow@usc.salvationarmy.org) and she is located in Illinois along with Matthew Payton who is a case manager and we are looking to add one more in Danville IL. I have one teammate in Iowa, Natalie Shannon (natalie.shannon@usc.salvationarmy.org), who is the TIP case manager for the Dubuque area.

The brochure that Brooke sent was for her program which is similar to ours, our model is just slightly different in the way the veteran transitions directly to their lease instead of transitioning to completely different housing which is less traumatizing. Also, there is no income cap for our program whereas there is one for the [SSVF program](#).

I know that some of you will be linked with the interagency and the Iowa Balance of State but I am doing research independently to find as many resources as I can for our vets. If you feel that your program could connect with me and help to support the work that we are doing, please reach out and let me know. Thank you so much. I really look forward to working with each one of you and your organizations.

Please feel free to forward this information to anyone that might benefit from it including anyone you might know in the Dubuque area. If you have any questions let me know. We are all still new to everything but are making strong and steady strides toward a successful program for our clients.

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